

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Tuesday, November 26. 1706.

In my last I complain'd of the Artifices of such Gentlemen, as in both Kingdoms oppose the Union, and of the monstrous Attempts they make both in Pamphlets, Speeches and Calculations, to amuse the World with Difficulties on both sides, and make the thing impracticable.

I gave a short Account of some Applications made in *Scotland* to the Parliament against an incorporate Union, and particularly came to the Address of the Burroughs, which because things are strangely represented in *England*, I shall here transcribe, and then make my Observation upon it.

They met at *Edinburgh*, Octo. 29. 1706. and upon Debate concerning Trade, they agreed upon the following Address against an incorporate Union.

To His Grace, Her Majesty's High Commissioner, and the Right Honourable the Estates of Parliaments.

The ADDRESS of the Commissioners to the general Convocation of the ROYAL BURROUGHS of this ancient Kingdom, convened the 29th. of October last, upon the great Concern of the Union proposed betwixt *Scotland* and *England*, forconcerting such Measures, as should be esteem'd proper for them to take, with Relation to their TRADE, and other Concerns,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

" THAT as by the Claim of Right, it is
" the Priviledge of all Subjects to
" Petition; so at this Time, being mostly
" im-

" impower'd by our Constituents; and
" knowing the Sentiments of the People,
" We represent: It is our indispensible
" Duty to signifie to your Grace, and the
" Honourable Estates of Parliament; That
" as We are not against an Honourable and
" Safe Union with England, consisting with
" the Being of this Kingdom, and Parlia-
" ments thereof: Without which, We con-
" ceive neither our Religion, nor our Civil
" Interests and Trade, as We now, by Law,
" enjoy them, can be secured to us and our
" Posterity, far less can we expect to have
" the Condition of the People of Scotland,
" with Relation to these great Concerns,
" made better and improved, without a
" Scots Parliament.

" And seeing by the Articles of Union,
" now under the Consideration of the Ho-
" nourable Estates of Parliament, it is
" agreed, that Scotland and England shall
" be united into one Kingdom, and that
" the united Kingdoms be united by one
" and the same Parliament; by which, our
" Monarchy is suppress'd, our Parliaments
" extinguished; and in Consequence, our
" Religion, Church-Government, Claim of
" Right, Laws, Liberties, Trade, and all
" that is dear to us, daily in Danger of be-
" ing encroach'd upon, alter'd, and wholly
" subverted by the English in a British Par-
" liament. Wherein the mean Repre-
" sentation allowed for Scotland, can never
" signifie in securing to US the Interest re-
" served by US, or granted to US by the
" ENGLISH.

" And by these Articles, our poor Peo-
" ple are made liable to the English Taxes,
" which is a certain, insupportable Bur-
" then; considering, that the Trade pro-
" posed is uncertain, involved, and wholly
" precarious: Especially when regulate as
" to Export and Import according to the
" Laws of England, and under the same
" Prohibitions and Restrictions, Customs
" and Duties. And discovering, that the
" most considerable Branches of our Trade
" are differing from those of England, and
" are, and may be yet more discourag'd
" by their Laws; and that all the Concerns
" of Trade and our Interest, are, after the
" Union, subject to such Alterations, as

" the Parliament of Great Britain shall
" think fit.

We therefore supplicate your Grace,
and the Honourable Estates of Par-
liament; and do assuredly expect, that ye
will not conclude such an incorporate U-
nion, as is contained in the Articles pro-
posed: But that ye will support and main-
tain the true Reform'd Protestant Re-
ligion and Church-Government, as by
Law established, The Sovereignty and
Independency of this Crown and King-
dom, and the Rights and Privileges of
Parliament, which has been generously
asserted by YOU in the . . . Session of this
present Parliament: And do further
pray, that effectual Means may be used
for defeating the Designs and Attempts of
all Popish Pretenders whatsoever, to the
Succession of this Crown and Kingdom,
and for securing this Nation against all
the Attempts and Incroachments that
may be made by any Persons whatsoever,
upon the Sovereignty, Religion, Laws,
Liberties, Trade and Quiet of the same.
And WE promise to maintain with our
Lives and Fortunes, all these valuable
Things, in Opposition to all Popish and
other Enemies whatsoever, according to
our Laws and Claim of Right.

Signed by Order, and in Presence
of the Convention, by

John McClellan Preces.

I the rather publish this Address, because
of a Calculation, which I shall make to fol-
low it, and which may open the Eyes of
some People, who think the Generality
of the Kingdom of Scotland is concern'd in
the Addresses against the Union, and as the
publishing an Address from Lauder with
some Clauses in the Flying-Post of Nov. 7th.
Instant, seems to imply so much, I wish,
that Gentleman, who, I hope, himself means
well, to undceive England in particular
would inform himself of some of the follow-
ing Particulars, and by setting things in a
true Light, the Nation would be something
less amused in a Case of such Moment as
this, and he would do a signal Service to
both Kingdoms.

1. What

1. What Management, what Party, and by what Methods, Addresses have been procured in all Parts of the Kingdom?
2. How that in particular, which he has publish'd, has been obtain'd, in whose Behalf?
3. Whether in an Address from the Shire of *Angus* in which it has been said, all the County joyn'd, there are not nine Parishes together in that Shire, out of which there was not one Man to be found, that would sign the Address?
4. How easi: it would be for the Gentlemen on the other side to get as many Addresses for the Union; and what Difference there would be both in the Numbers and Quality of the Persons signing, if they thought it a proper Way of Proceeding?
5. If the Calculation of the Address of Burroughs hereafter be true, whether those Burroughs, who are rich, populous, and Trading, as appears by the Scheme, are not more likely to judge of the true Interest of *Scotland*, than the other that are poor and insignificant in Trade, tho' in Number superior? The Calculation is as follows, and I am assured from very good Hands that it is very just.

The Assembly, call'd a Convention of the Burroughs, is a Kind of Parliament by it self, they meet in Parliament Time to consider of Trade, and represent their Demands to the Parliament. There are in *Scotland* 66 Burroughs, every one of these send one to represent them in this Assembly, and the City *Edinburgh* only sends two; so that the Assembly consists of 67 Members, of whom the Lord Provost of *Edinburgh* signs as *Preses*, as you see by the Copy.

They frequently send Commissioners to their Representatives in Parliament to represent them here. But they are not obliged to do so, and to save the Charges of sending up one on purpose, when they are not willing to name their Parliament Man, they name some of the Inhabitants of *Edinburgh*, who have some Relation to the said Burrough; by which means they are not always Men understanding the Interest of the Burghs, or principled for their Benefit; I do not say how it was now, but I proceed to my Calculation.

The Burroughs in *Scotland* pay one third of the Cess or Land-Tax of *Scotland*, being some of them rich trading Towns; wherefore an Assessment of 300*l.* per Week or Month is laid on, the Burroughs pay 100*l.*

Now to our Addressers.

44 of the Burroughs appear'd at this Convention.

23 were absent; and of the absent, I think, 'tis more rational to guess they were for the Union rather than against it, as not concerning themselves to oppose it.

—
67

Of the Forty four that appear'd,
24 sign'd the Address,
20 refused it.

—
44

The 24 that sign'd it, were for Burroughs, who all put together pay but 14*l.* of an hundred Pound, or $\frac{1}{10}$ Parts of every Tax. *l.* 14. — : —
The 20 that refused it, serv'd for Burghs that pay $\frac{6}{10}$ Parts. *l.* 69. — : —
The 23 absent—were Burghs that pay $\frac{17}{10}$ Parts ————— *l.* 17. — : —

—
67

l. 100. — : —